

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 021156 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3914

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3355

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, HK, TH, BM, XC, LA

SUBJECT: TRI- COUNTRY REACTIONS TO ROLPH PROPOSALS

HONG KONG FOR WILLIAM OWEN

REF: HONG KONG 3966, 3422, 2833 AND 2797

1. TRI- COUNTRY CONFEREES DRAFTED FOLLOWING MESSAGE IN RESPONSE TO ROLPH PROPOSALS ON DRUG SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH HAS CONCURRENCY OF AMEMBASSIES BANGKOK, RANGOON AND THIS MISSION. DEPARTMENT MAY REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.

2. QUOTE: ALTHOUGH PARTICIPANTS IN TRI- COUNTRY NARCOTICS MEETING HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FULL TEXT OF HONG KONG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER NORMAN ROLPH' S REPORT TO LONDON ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA,
WE ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MEETING IN VIENTIANE TO ENDORSE SEVERAL OF ROLPH' S ANTICIPATED RECOMMENDATIONS, AS REPORTED REFTELS, AND TO REJECT UNEQUIVOCALLY ROLPH' S PRE- EMPTIVE BUYING PROPOSAL.

3. QUOTE - UK- US- STUDY GROUP - TRI- COUNTRY CONFEREES STRONGLY EN- DORSE INCREASED US- UK COOPERATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HAVE MADE THIS POINT EMINENTLY CLEAR TO OUR
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BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN RANGOON, BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL BRITISH EMBASSY WHO ACCOMPANIED CONFEREES ON FIELD TRIP TO BAN HOU EI SAI AND LUANG PRABANG 27 APRIL. WE THEREFORE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF EXACT AMOUNTS REQUIRED FOR PAYMENTS, BUT WILL REPORT ANYTHING WE ARE ABLE TO UNCOVER.

3. OVERALL FIGURES ON EMIGRATION FROM POLAND ARE NOT AT PRESENT AVAILABLE, BUT WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN THEM. DATA ON ISSUANCE OF US IMMIGRATION VISAS SHOW THAT IV ISSUANCES WENT FROM A HIGH OF 8,171 IN FY 1966 TO A LOW OF 1,032 IN CY 1970. FOLLOWING THE REPLACEMENT OF GUMULKA BY GIEREK IN DECEMBER, 1970, A RISE IN ISSUANCES TOOK PLACE. THE EMBASSY ISSUED 2,383 DURING CY 1971, MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND 2,287 DURING CY 1972. MOST SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WERE GOING TO RELATIVES. FEW SKILLED WORKERS OR PROFESSIONALS OBTAINED IVS. THE NUMBER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND MARRIED CHILDREN (CATEGORIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE POLISH CONCEPTION OF "IMMEDIATE RELATIVE") RECEIVING VISAS INCREASED EVEN MORE, FROM 188 IN CY 1970 TO 1,137 IN CY 1971 AND 1,211 IN CY 1972.

4. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN TELL PRECISELY HOW MANY IV APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED PASSPORTS. DESPITE GAINS SINCE 1970, THE EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN ABOUT 20,000 REGISTRATIONS SUBJECT TO NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS, WITH ABOUT ONE-HALF IN THE BROTHER AND SISTER CATEGORY. WE ASSUME THAT SKILLED WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE THAN PERSONS IN MOST OTHER CATEGORIES, BUT THIS CANNOT BE PROVEN CONCLUSIVELY BY THE RELATIVELY LOW IV ISSUANCE TO THIS CATEGORY.

5. BASED ON THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE OF 19.92 ZLOTIES TO THE DOLLAR, THE GOP CHARGES ABOUT \$250 FOR AN EMIGRANT PASSPORT, PLUS AN APPLICATION FEE OF ABOUT \$3 FOR REVENUE STAMPS. TO ASSIST IN PLACING THIS FEE IN PERSPECTIVE, DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT A TOURIST PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE EUROPE COSTS ABOUT \$350. AT THE SAME RATE OF EXCHANGE, THE AVERAGE POLISH WORKER EARNES ABOUT \$140 PER MONTH.

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